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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. [redacted] the recent Soviet-Yugoslav talks were proposed by the USSR through its embassy in Belgrade. Both Tito and Vice-President Edvard Kardelj have stated that Marshal Zhukov was personally responsible for proposing the talks. Tito accepted the proposal because he felt completely independent and strong, but willing to improve relations and take help from anyone. However, he would not allow himself to be ever again bound by the Soviet Union. [redacted] there was no agenda agreed upon in advance, nor were there any prior commitments.
2. After the failure of Khrushchev's initial gambit at Belgrade airport, the Soviet leaders respected Tito's wish to be treated as head of the Government rather than head of the Yugoslav Communist Party. According to both Tito and Kardelj, the Soviets were friendly and jovial, and applied no pressure on Yugoslavia during the talks.
3. When questioned by Tito as to why, in his airport speech, Khrushchev sought to blame Beriya for the break in Yugoslav-Soviet relations, Khrushchev replied that the speech was for "home consumption." Tito has stated that Khrushchev did not believe his own statements about Beriya "and neither did I." Khrushchev admitted that the Stalin regime as a whole was at fault. The Soviets did not appear remorseful or unhappy about the break, but considered it an error.
4. Although the series of meetings started in a cold atmosphere, they soon warmed up because of the friendly attitude of the Soviets, who were not adamant on any points. According to Tito, Khrushchev was the controlling Soviet personality, but the Soviet mentality has changed, and their delegation worked as a team in complete harmony, joking among themselves, and relating to the Yugoslavs how difficult things were during the Stalin regime. The Soviet delegation admired Zhukov greatly and were agreed that he is the

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coming person in the Soviet Union.

5. According to the Yugoslavs, only governmental matters were discussed at the meetings. Tito recommended to the Soviets that they change their policy of supporting local Communist parties, and have relations on official levels everywhere. The Soviet answer was that maybe the Yugoslavs were right. They showed an attitude of wanting to know what to do next and being quite willing to accept suggestions. According to Tito, the Yugoslavs were not unwilling to accept Molotov at the conference and were surprised he did not come. The Yugoslav view is that Molotov is an old Stalinist and will gradually be pushed aside. Khrushchev participated as a Government representative, i.e., a member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. Bulgaria was number two man in the delegation.
6. According to Tito, no agreement was made on party relationships. He does not rule out contacts between social groups like doctors, lawyers, trade unions, parliamentarians, municipal leaders, etc. The Yugoslav draft communique of the conference was accepted by the Soviets with only minor changes.
7. Marshal Tito will visit the Soviet Union in February, (sic) and considers it out of the question that he will be harmed, since "in such a case my people will go to war. Only I can speak for Yugoslavia, and I must convince the old die-hards that they were right to change their policy towards Yugoslavia." Tito firmly believes that a change is evident in the USSR. One of the signs is the rehabilitation of the families of Tukhachevskiy and others, who have now been given pensions and decreed innocent. He has stated "if the present trend goes wrong and the Soviets change, we will change again. A weight has fallen off their shoulders. Their leaders are happy and free. Zhukov now controls the Army, and the Commissars are out of the military. Army officers are being put into many key positions in the (Soviet) Government."
8. According to Tito, Khrushchev directed the Bulgarians to change their attitude towards Yugoslavia after he arrived in Sofia. Tito now feels that a change is taking place in Poland and Hungary towards better relations with Yugoslavia, but that things are moving slowly in Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. Kardelj has stated that the Bulgarians want closer relations, but Yugoslavia is not yet ready. He hopes that Yugoslavia will succeed in luring the Satellites into a new Balkan Pact with an increased degree of independence and with the consent and support of the Soviet Union.

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